

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY11 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ10 SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL
CONSERVATION AREA

STATE: AZ

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DESCRIPTION:

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) is the first of only two Riparian National Conservation Areas in the nation. The Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-696) designated the SPRNCA to protect the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources. The SPRNCA is located near the city of Sierra Vista in Cochise County, AZ and contains approximately 56,431 acres of public land. Forty miles of the San Pedro River fall within the conservation area adding to its environmental importance.

Primitive camping is allowed throughout the SPRNCA except in riparian zones, where camping is restricted to protect these sensitive areas. There are two Administrative and Information Center Host Sites located at the Fairbank Historic Townsite and the San Pedro House. This project includes all recreational revenues collected within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. There are no amenity fee sites within the SPRNCA. All of revenues in this project are derived from Special Recreation Permits. These include any commercial operations or competitive and organized group events occurring within the SPRNCA, plus an individual permit issued for overnight backcountry camping permits (the entire SPRNCA was established as a Special Area according to 43 CFR 2932 under the authority of the Federal Lands Policy Management Act). All other daily dispersed recreation use is free, including hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting in designated areas.

FEE SCHEDULE:

The SRP fee schedule for commercial activities is established nationally for all BLM field offices. Fee receipts derived from recreational commercial, competitive, and organized group event SRPs are routinely calculated using national fee schedule guidance found in BLM Recreation Permit Administration Manual H-2930-1, Section III.G., as established by 43 CFR 2930. As of March 2011, the SRP fee schedule is the following:

- Commercial permits are the maximum of \$100 annually or 3% of the gross revenue
- Competitive permits are the maximum of \$100 annually, 3% gross revenue, or \$5 person/day
- Organized group use is the maximum of \$100 or \$5 per participant

The fee for the individual use of the special area is established locally. The entire SPRNCA encompasses one such area – overnight use anywhere within the area requires a permit.

- Special Area Special Recreation Permit – (Individual Backcountry Overnight Permit): \$2.00 / Person / Night

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY11:

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:

Fee revenues had been planned to support an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Project to provide new picnic tables at the SPRNCA and test the water from an onsite public well. Both of these projects were completed. However, nearly all of the accumulated recreation revenues were used to install the picnic tables at the Palaminas Trailhead. Much of the remainder was used to fund the required testing of the drinking water well.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR (FY12)

Revenue account levels are now insufficient to plan for a specific project. When enough funding has re-accumulated, the most pressing maintenance priority will be considered.